

ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

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LEADERSHIP
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NOEMI VELAZQUEZ
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GENE CALDERON

ANTONIO CARDONA

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MERCEDES DEL VALLE RAMA, Ed.D.

MARYBEL HERNANDEZ

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ANIBAL RAMOS

MARGARET ROSARIO-RIVERA

MIRVA RIVERA

IVETTE D. SANTIAGO-GREEN, ESQ.

**ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey
Board of Directors Meeting
February 19, 1997**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ms. Marybel Hernandez, Mr. Gene Calderon,
Mr. Carlos E. Jimenez, Mr. Anibal Ramos, Mr. Carlos
J. Alma, Mr. Rolando Velazquez, Mr. Jorge Cruz,
Dr. Mercedes Del Valle Rana, Ms. Maria H. Colon,
Mr. Hector Bonilla, Ms. Noemi Velazquez, Ms. Glenda
Nieves

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Yvonne Cruz, Mr. Hector Ortiz

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Roberto Del Rios, Ms. Anandi Kimmel

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Noemi Velazquez at the Paterson Museum at 7:15 p.m.

II. WAIVER OF NOTICE:

All Board Members indicated that they were duly notified of the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Gene Calderon moved to accept the agenda. Jorge Cruz second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Velazquez noted that the agency's letterhead needs to be updated.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Velazquez stated that persons mentioned in the Minutes should be addressed formally (i.e., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., etc.). Mr. Carlos Jimenez made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Jorge Cruz second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Ramos and Mr. Del Rios attended the National Retreat hosted by the ASPIRA Association's National Office. Ms. Velazquez had concerns regarding our finances and asked Mr. Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, Executive Director of the National Office, whether Ms. Myrna Rivera, Treasurer of the National Office could hold a workshop on financial planning for ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey. Mr. Blackburn-Moreno agreed to the request, with the stipulation that for one day, members of other associate organizations could attend the workshop.

Ms. Velazquez gathered some interesting financial information as to the direction ASPIRA of New Jersey can pursue, for instance possibly selling our building, and invest the money. Then, when our investment had been built up, we should buy another building. Mr. Del Rios stated that the specialty of Ms. Rivera is dealing with investments and building up an endowment, such as that of the National Office.

Ms. Velazquez remarked that Candy Vidale, Fiscal Officer at the National Office, is also giving technical assistance and is now in Connecticut. We need her help, as soon as she is available.

Ms. Velazquez said that the issue of Spanish language usage at ASPIRA activities was also discussed at the retreat. Representatives of the ASPIRA National Board seem to be less resistant about the use of Spanish at ASPIRA activities.

Ms. Velazquez attended the NABE conference in Albuquerque that focused on teaching English as a second language and bilingual education. As a result of this conference, she has been invited to conduct a talk about the work of ASPIRA at the NJTESOL-BE Spring Conference, which will be held at the Hilton Towers in East Brunswick on May 21st and 22nd. A call for papers application was forwarded to Mr. Del Rios to complete and send on behalf of ASPIRA.

On Saturday, February 15th, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Del Rios, Dr. Del Valle Rana, Mr. Cruz, and Mr. Velazquez, met with ASPIRANTES in Jersey City. This is a multicultural group with students from Pakistan, India, Poland and Afghanistan. The students had a lot to say. Their chief concern is the lack of

recognition for ASPIRA. They want to prepare a flyer to introduce fellow students to ASPIRA, and urge them to become involved. The students will again meet on March 1st at 2 p.m.

Ms. Velazquez remarked that the students didn't know what ASPIRA's mission is, and that Puerto Ricans are under represented in Jersey City. The topics of self-identity and determination for Puerto Ricans need to be addressed. Discussion ensued about the adolescent's search for identity. How do we get the students themselves to serve as the catalysts to get things done. Students are concerned about such problems as teenage pregnancy. They need a sensitivity retreat because they're fighting with students of other races as well as among themselves.

Ms. Velazquez noted that very few people from the Paterson Public Schools attended the reception prior to the meeting. It was concluded that we need to establish more contact with the school superintendents of the districts we serve, and that we need to build on what we have.

Ms. Velazquez announced that on March 14th Jersey City educators are hosting a party at the Quality Inn, to raise funds for the Jersey City Parade. The cost is \$25, all inclusive.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Del Rios stated that we are applying to the United Way of Camden for a \$10,000 grant and need approval from the Board for the budget. Mr. Del Rios reviewed the proposal. Carlos Alma moved to approve the budget. Anibal Ramos second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Del Rios announced that the National ASPIRA Conference will be held in the fall. The focus of the conference will be on technology. Each ASPIRA Associate will have the opportunity to recognize one Alumni.

Mr. Del Rios stated that the National Office will help with the revision of our brochure. They will pay for the printing costs.

Mr. Del Rios stated that the Victoria Foundation has a new program that emphasizes parental involvement. Apropos of this, APEX (ASPIRA Parents for Educational Excellence) is now operating at the Luis Munoz Marin Middle School. APEX should be used for public relations/marketing of the agency. All Board Members are invited to attend the APEX Graduation on Friday, February 28th. Mr. Del Rios brought up the subject of welfare reform and the Essex County Plan to privatize welfare. The county wants to subcontract to community based organizations. What is to be our role in this plan? Discussion ensued. Some of the suggestions were to become involved in vocational training, offer literacy courses to parents, conduct ESL training, and job readiness and

employment counseling to adults. The county must develop guidelines for its plan by May 1, 1997.

Mr. Del Rios attended several meetings held during the past month. Among those meetings, included Mr. Jerome Greco of the First Union Bank. Mr. Greco agreed to sit on our Advisory Board and serve as one of the sponsors for the Hall of Fame event.

Ms. Anandi Kimmel, the Development Officer, presented her monthly report to the Board. Among the grants that we received was a \$5,000 grant from CBS-TV, a new funding source, and a grant of \$5,000 from Anheuser-Busch, which is \$4,000 more than in previous years. Ms. Kimmel had prepared a proposal to the MCJ Foundation (for a \$77,850 grant with which to establish a Juvenile Mentoring Program), as well as proposals for the Victoria Foundation and the Turrell Fund. She also wrote a number of letters, including a letter to Dr. Carlos Hernandez, congratulating him on his appointment to the Board of Managers of the Provident Savings Bank in Jersey City, as well as to the Board of Managers of the Provident Savings Bank for having appointed Dr. Hernandez.

VII. ASAB REPORT

There will be a student meeting on March 1, 1997.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee:

Mr. Gene Calderon reported that he had worked on the evaluations, and that the last page regarding the goals and objectives needs to be done.

Nominating Committee:

The issue of appointing Ms. Wanda Saez to the Board was presented. Mr. Jorge Cruz made a motion to have Ms. Saez sit on the board. Ms. Marybel Hernandez second the motion. All approved the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Hernandez asked whether Mr. Rivera would be appointed to the board. His appointment was not approved, and a letter will be written to him informing him of this decision.

Ms. Velazquez noted that Mr. Hector Ortiz had missed 3 meetings, and Ms. Yvonne Cruz had missed 4 meetings, although she did make the Saturday meetings.

Development Committee:

Mr. Hector Bonilla arranged for Ms. Lydia Hernandez-Velez, Executive Vice President, Managing Council and Senior Compliance Officer of the CoreStates Bank, to be the keynote speaker at the Luncheon.

Further discussion ensued about the Luncheon. We have had a good response to date and many corporations will still buy ads for the journal. The contributions from the 4 sponsors will fully pay for the expenses of the luncheon. Also discussed were getting a plaque for Carmen and having a silhouette of Alfredo Santiago in the journal.

Also presented at the Board Meeting was a copy of the Supplemental Goals and Objectives to the Development Component of the Strategic Plan.

Programs Committee:

Ms. Yvonne Cruz was absent. It was mentioned that La Casa de Don Pedro is having its 25th Anniversary Celebration in the fall of 1997, thus, the date for the Hall of Fame Dinner may have to be rescheduled.

Public Relations Committee:

Mr. Ramos indicated that many of the Board sold tickets this year however, 54 tickets are still need to be sold. Mr. Ramos also mentioned of the possibility of handling a golf outing as fundraiser in the future. Mr. Alma agreed to assist in this project.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bonilla stated that we should put in writing our approval of the proposal and budget submitted to the United Way of Camden.

Mr. Cruz will host the Luncheon. He discussed the program, and whether it would be appropriate to invite the Mayor of Elizabeth to the Luncheon. It was decided that he should be invited and give welcoming remarks.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Del Valle Rana stated that the Board is urgently in need of sensitivity training, and asked whether we could set a date for an ETS meeting. May 10th was tentatively scheduled, based on what ETS has available. Other places for the training were discussed, including Becton Dickinson in Franklin Lakes, and the Continuing Education Center at Rutgers University.

Also discussed was the date for the Board Retreat, either July 18th-20th or the 25th-27th.

On March 14th there will be a meeting conducted by the Commissioners of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Human Services who will focus on WorkFirst NJ.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Velazquez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Alma second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.